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## Senator's Charges May Harm Nation

If there is anyone who should be cognizant of the importance of being discreet in making public statements which will affect the image of this nation, it is a United States senator.

Yet, Sen. Stephen M. Young, D-Ohio, made some comments this week which were more in the form of rumors than of actual fact, which could have serious repercussions.

Young recently visited Viet Nam and suddenly made a comment to the press that he was told by a member of the Central Intelligence Agency there that the CIA committed atrocities to discredit the Viet Cong.

He said he was told that the CIA disguised some people as Viet Cong and they committed atrocities, including killing some men and raping of some women.

Yet, he refused to name the CIA official who told of these matters.

A CIA spokesman said that the statement was "absolutely false."

Certainly, in his position as a member of the Senate, Young would have the ways and means of finding out whether such anonymous accusations were true. If they are, he then would be right in making them public and in seeing to it that such activities were stopped immediately.

But without even checking the authenticity of what could be—and probably are—rumors, Sen. Young performed a disservice, not only to the Central Intelligence Agency, but also to the nation which he represents in the highest legislative capacity.